(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering framing of uniform civil law after making comprehensive amendment in the personal law for effective control on the problem of population; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and how far it would be in the interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government. The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth) Amendment Bill, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1992, has been pending for more than 12 years, as it has not been possible to evolve consensus amongst various Political Parties despite repeated meetings with their leaders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion. They are free to decide about the size of their family. The policy of the Government is that the couple should be encouraged by persuasion to opt for contraception methods out of informed choice. The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by Government affirms the commitment of Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, without any incentives, dis-incentives or coercion for limiting family size.

Rehabilitation centres for handicapped

*539. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped persons till January, 2005;

(b) the number of vocational rehabilitation centres set up for them, location-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that rehabilitation centres are not sufficient to meet the needs of the handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to open more rehabilitation centres for benefit of the handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) According to census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities.

(b) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under the Ministry of Labour for handicapped are functioning in the country one each at Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Labour & Employment proposes to set up at least one Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in each State/UT. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, 7 more new VRCs for handicapped are to be set up out of which three have already been sanctioned.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana

*540. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(b) the allocation made during the last five years to the States/UTs, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought additional allocation for bringing about sustainable improvement in Urban Poverty Alleviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) With a view to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment, a new urban poverty alleviation programme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched on 01.12.1997 after subsuming the earlier three Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes, namely Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP),